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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 113324
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 113324

STADIS//////////////////////////////////
EXDIS - FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EUR R. VINE, ACTING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: BREZHNEV STATEMENT ON SALT

1. BREZHNEV, IN TOAST FOR FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, MAY 17, TOOK UPBEAT LINE ON SALT, ALLUDED TO DESIRABILITY OF EVENTUAL "REAL REDUCTIONS," AND STATED VLADIVOSTOK-BASED ACCORD WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENT IN BROADER STRATEGIC ARMS-RELATED AREAS. THESE AREAS HE DEFINED AS CESSATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS (CTB), BANNING OF NEW TYPES AND NEW SYSTEMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), AND, A SOVIET FORMULATION WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN, "LIMITATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF SEVERAL OTHER KINDS OF ARMS."

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2. TEXT OF BREZHNEV'S SALT COMMENTS FOLLOW:

"SPEAKING OF THE WORLD SITUATION AS A WHOLE, IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT THE MAIN DIRECTION FOR THE EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE DETENTE AND ACHIEVE A DURABLE PEACE IS STILL THE PROBLEM OF BRIDLING THE ARMS RACE AND GOING OVER TO A REAL REDUCTION IN ARMAMENTS. PROGRESS IN TALKS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE

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USA ON THE PROBLEMS IN QUESTION CAN CERTAINLY HAVE CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS RESPECT.

"THE GUIDELINES FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT WERE DETERMINED BY THE WELL-KNOWN 1974 VLADIVOSTOK ACCORDS. THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS GREAT WORK WOULD HAVE BASICALLY IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE GENERAL CLIMATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SERVE TO STIMULATE NEW AND FURTHER REACHING INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS TO CONTAIN THE ARMS RACE.

"WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS WOULD SPECIFICALLY HELP TO SOLVE SUCH IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AS THE BANNING OF ALL KINDS OF NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS, THE BANNING OF NEW KINDS AND SYSTEMS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, THE LIMITATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF SEVERAL OTHER KINDS OF ARMS."

3. BREZHNEV ALSO ALLUDED TO DESIRABILITY OF DISCUSSING "LIQUIDATION OF FOREIGN WAR BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN AND WITHDRAWAL OF SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM MEDITERRANEAN." LATTER IS OLD SOVIET PROPOSAL AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RAISING IT AGAIN AT THIS JUNCTURE IS UNCLEAR.

4. COMMENT: BREZHNEV'S POSITING OF A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS BEGINNING WITH A VLADIVOSTOK-BASED ACCORD FOLLOWED BY LATER PROGRESS UNDER THE RUBRIC OF MDW AND "LIMITATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF SEVERAL OTHER KINDS OF

ARMS" SMACKS OF TWO-STEP APPROACH TO THE CONCEPTS OF OUR COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL. SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL, IN ADDITION TO ITS FOCUS ON "NEW TYPES" OF WEAPONS BASED ON NEW PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES, IS ALSO DIRECTED AT CONSTRAINING "NEW SYSTEMS," THAT IS, NEW MODELS OF CURRENTLY EXISTING WEAPONS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOVIETS, SUPPLEMENTING MDW WITH THEIR NEW TESTING/DEVELOPMENT FORMULATION, ARE SEEKING TO EMBRACE ELEMENTS FIGURING IN US COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE IN POSSIBLE OUTLINE OF POST-SALT II NEGOTIATION THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO MOSCOW. OTHER POSSIBILITY IS SIMPLY THAT MOSCOW WISHES TO RETAIN PROPAGANDA HIGH GROUND IN FACE OF US COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL.

5. IN ANY EVENT, BREZHNEV'S LACK OF CRITICISM OF US PROPOSAL IS POSITIVE SIGN WHICH CONTRAST WITH GROMYKO'S GENEVA ARRIVAL STATEMENT THAT, " THE (SALT) DIFFICULTIES HAVE NOT BEEN CAUSED BY THE SOVIET UNION."

6. DRAFTED:EUR/SOV:JDGLASSMAN:EM

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CLEARANCE: EUR:RDVINE, PM/DCA:MRAMEE,
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Control Number: n/a
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